during the year 2005-06 in various coal subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. is as follows:—

Subsidiary	Quantity transported by ESM companies (in lakh tones)
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	87.98
Central Coalfields Limited	3.01
Western Coalfields Limited	200.38
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	636.47
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	660.19

IAF Aircraft Crash in Gujarat

3389. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Air Force aircraft crashed in a field in Gujarat on the 18th March, 2006 killing both the pilots;

(b) if so, the findings of the statutory inquiry conducted into the mishap and the action taken thereon.

(c) the extent of damage caused to the crops as a result of the mishap;

(d) whether compensation has been paid to the owner of the field where the aircraft fell, if so, what; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir, there was no accident in Gujarat. However, the Indian Air Force lost a Kiran aircraft at Bidar in Karnataka on March 18, 2006. In this accident, two pilots lost their lives. The cause of accident was estblished as human error (aircrew). A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Indian Air Force (IAF) to enhance and upgrade flight safety.

(c) to (e) The standing crops of sugarcane, groundnut and wheat in the area got damaged. The cost of damage of the crops and the land was

assessed at Rs. 28,000/- by the civil administration, Bidar. The compensation is paid as per the extant guidelines.

MIG-21 Air Crashes

†3390. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI AJAY MAROO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of MIG-21 aircrafts crashed during the last three years and the number of people including pilots killed during the aforesaid period;

(b) the cost of a MIG-21 aircraft and the reasons found out by Government behind the spate of crashes of MIG-21 aircrafts and the steps taken by Government to prevent the recurrence of accidents; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A total number of twelve MIG-21 of the Indian Air Force (IAF) were lost during the last three financial years from 2003-2004 to 2005-2006. In these accidents a total number of 13 people (including seven pilots) lost their lives.

(b) and (c) The cost of a MIG-21 aircraft varies between Rs. 1.5crores (for the oldest version) to Rs. 14.5 crores (for the latest version). The IAF carried out investigations in all MIG-21 accidents. Five of the twelve accidents occurred due to human error on the part of Aircrew, four were due to technical defects, two were due to human error on the part of servicing personnel at HAL and one was due to bird hit. The IAF has identified technical defect and human error as the two main causes for the accidents.

Each aircraft accident in the IAF is investigated through a Court of Inquiry (COI) and remedial actions as per the recommendations of the COI are taken. Besides, a continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.